

**Testimony
Submitted to the
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
by
Dr. Frederick S. Humphries
CEO & President**

**National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education
8701 Georgia Avenue, Suite 200
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910**

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2358 RayburnHOB
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Mr. Chairman and distinguished Members of the subcommittee, I am Dr. Frederick S. Humphries, Chief Executive Officer and President of the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO). I want to thank you for allowing me to appear before you today as you consider funding priorities relevant to the FY05 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill.

Before presenting my prepared remarks, I would like to thank the subcommittee for the support Historically and Predominantly Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) received in the FY04 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill. The support HBCUs historically have received from this subcommittee has had a profound and indelible impact on national efforts to ensure that all Americans, particularly those from underrepresented groups, have an opportunity to participate in and contribute to national efforts related to education, labor, research and development. This appropriations subcommittee, more than any other, has the power to determine to what extent HBCUs – the students, faculty and communities we serve – will be engaged as both partners and beneficiaries of federally funded programs that have been specifically designed to expand educational opportunities for all Americans, but particularly those who come from communities that have been the objects of racially discriminatory practices. Additionally, within the auspices of the subcommittee's jurisdiction, you have the ability to decide to what extent Americans will participate in federally-funded job training programs, or benefit from efforts to end the racial disparities that exist across almost every major disease group.

Please know that NAFEO, representing more than 100 member institutions, looks forward in working with you to create the opportunities and tackle the challenges that coexist, oftentimes as competing components, of such a monumental mandate. We also look forward to working with you to secure the authorization and reauthorization of certain programs that are being considered as a part of the Higher Education Act reauthorization process. NAFEO's recommendations related to both the appropriations and authorization processes are addressed below.

Having said this, and before going any further, let me first highlight many of the accomplishments of NAFEO, and then I will discuss the particular initiatives we support and look to expand upon during this fiscal year.

BACKGROUND

NAFEO is the national umbrella organization representing the nation's 118 predominately and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Our mission is to champion the interests of HBCUs through the executive, legislative and judicial branches of federal and state government, and to articulate the need for a system of higher education where race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, and previous educational attainment levels are not determinants of either the quantity or quality of higher education. The organization takes lead responsibility for the development and dissemination of public policy, programmatic efforts, and strategic and educational materials that: (1) enhance the role of HBCUs generally, and (2) promote minority student enrollment and attainment specifically. NAFEO is comprised of institutions of higher education that represent a broad spectrum of interests – public and private, large and small, urban and rural, liberal arts, agricultural, research, scientific and technological institutions. Of all of the HBCUs that belong to NAFEO, 46% are public, and 54% are private. The organization's membership is comprised of 2-year and 4-year institutions, as well as schools that offer advanced and professional degrees, and they are situated in every quarter of the country, the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands.

NAFEO was founded in 1969 at a time when the nation had before it overwhelming evidence that educational inequality in higher education remained manifest. Beginning 50 years ago, the 1954 Supreme

Court decision, *Brown vs. Topeka Board of Education*, and its progeny, focused national attention on the dual and unequal primary and secondary education systems nationwide and spurred two decades of litigation and legislation designed to redress the inequalities. But, the initial debate neither paid much attention to the inequalities in higher education nor focused on the nation's HBCUs as equal opportunity institutions; thus, a solution to some of the nation's higher education issues was eluded.

NAFEO institutions historically are responsible for educating the vast majority of African Americans. Today, while NAFEO institutions enroll approximately 16 percent of all African American college students, they confer close to 30 percent of all baccalaureate degrees earned by African Americans annually. In some disciplines, such as engineering and teacher education, the number is significantly higher. Moreover, these schools produce the largest number of African American baccalaureate recipients who eventually go on to receive doctorates, especially in the sciences. While the collective responsibility for ensuring greater educational access for African Americans, closing college entrance gaps and addressing emerging trends at the national level rests on all of our shoulders, much the weight of this responsibility is being carried by NAFEO and its member institutions. The effort is particularly challenging considering that a significantly high percentage of the students HBCUs serve come from low-performing schools systems and high need families. Consequently, additional resources are required from the federal government and the private sector if achievement gaps are to be closed in African American communities.

FY05 RECOMMENDATIONS

For FY05, NAFEO undertook steps to dialogue with the Administration early in the process. Our dialogue continues. Many of our recommendations have been incorporated into President Bush's FY05 budget submission; however, we are here today to seek additional funding in certain key strategic areas, falling under this subcommittee's jurisdiction. The chart below outlines the relevant programs and funding levels for which we seek your support.

	FINAL FY03 APPROPRIATIONS	FINAL FY04	FY05 Requests	NAFEO FY05 REQUESTS
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION				
Student Financial Assistance				
Pell Grant (Max. award)	\$11.439B (\$4,050)	\$12.0067B (\$4,050)	12.863B (\$4,050)	(\$4,500) ¹
SEOG	\$765m	\$770.5m	\$770.5m	\$1.0 B
Federal Work Study	\$1.011B	\$998.5m	\$998.5m	\$1.15 B
Perkins Loan Program FCC ² (cancellations)	\$167.5m	\$ 98.8m (\$67.0m/ cancellations)	0 (\$66.7m/ cancellations)	\$140 m (\$120m/cancellations)
Trio (Including College Completion Challenge Grant)	\$832.5m	\$832.6m	\$832.6	\$883 m
LEAP	\$67.0m	\$66.2m	0	\$100 m
Aid for Institutional Development / Program Development				
Title III, Part A	\$82.0m	\$81.0m	\$81.0m	\$101.3 m
Title III, Part B – Sec. 323	\$213.415m	\$222.8m	\$240.5m	\$260 m
Title III, Part B – Sec. 326	\$53.764m	\$53.1m	\$58.5m	\$65 m
Title III, Part B: Freshman Computer Enhancement Initiative	0	0	0	0
Title III, Part C, Endowment Grant	0	0	0	\$35 m
GEAR-UP	\$295.0m	\$298.2m	\$298.3m	
MSEIP	\$9.0m	\$8.9m	\$8.9m	\$20 m
HBCU Capital Financing	\$208,000	\$210,000	\$210,000	\$308,000
Howard University	\$238.4m	\$238.8m	\$238.8m	\$275.2 m
OTHER				
Office of Civil Rights	\$86.276m	\$88.3m	\$92.8m	
Teacher Quality Enhancement Grants	\$90.0m	\$88.9m	\$88.9m	\$190 m
Institute for International Public Policy (IIPP)	\$1.65m	\$1.6m	\$1.6m	\$3 m
HEA Title VI, Int'l Education	\$108.5m	\$102 m	\$102 m	\$128.6 m

¹ NAFEO supports efforts underway to raise the maximum Pell Grant award to \$5100.00.

² Federal Capital Contributions.

	FINAL FY03 APPROPRIATIONS	FINAL FY04 APPROPRIATIONS	PRESIDENT'S FY05 REQUESTS	NAFEO FY05 REQUESTS
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES				
(NIH) MARC	\$30.718m	\$30.718m	\$30.718m	\$35 m
(NIH) MBRS	\$100.048m	\$121.0m	\$122.0m	\$135 m
(NIH) RIMI	N/A	\$11.7m	\$13.7m	\$15 m
(NIH) RCMI	\$51.77m	\$53.567m	\$55.174m	\$58 m
(NIH) Research Facilities Improvement Program	N/A	TBD	TBD	TBD
Office of Minority Health	\$56.592m	\$55.329m	\$47.0m	\$60 m
Health Careers (HCOP)	\$36.389m	\$36.1m	0	\$40 m
Centers for Excellence	\$34.311m	\$34.0m	0	\$40 m
Center on Minority Health & Health Disparities	\$186.929m	\$192.7m	\$197.0m	\$210.7 m
Research Centers at Minority Institutions (includes AIDS)	N/A	TBD	TBD	TBD

These are the programs under the subcommittee's purview that have been the most beneficial to HBCUs.

PROGRAMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

In addition to the programs referenced above, there are three programs of special interest and two categorical programs that I would like to bring to your attention and request your specific support. The appropriations projects of special interest are the Urban Thrust and Technology Technical Assistance demonstration projects this subcommittee funded just last year,³ and the Freshman Computer Enhancement Initiative. The two categorical programs are the Title IV Student Financial Assistance and Title III, Part B Strengthening Institutions programs.

- *Urban Thrust College Recruitment Initiative* – For FY04, Congress took historic steps and provided funding to initiate this project. Additional funds are needed to expand and continue the program, consistent with the goals articulated to Congress last year. Funds will be used to support a recruitment activity in an urban area.

College attendance, though much improved for African Americans, still lags behind and is most deplorable in the inner city of America's largest cities. Obtaining a reasonable level of parity in educational attainment is still an unmet goal for the urban African American youth. NAFEO proposes to engage HBCUs in a national urban thrust to equalize the college going rate for urban youth. NAFEO's Urban Thrust Initiative seeks \$6 million to support a program to be launched in partnership with 10

³ Congress combined these two projects in report language included in the FY04 Omnibus Appropriations bill, and provided a total of \$100,000 in funding. NAFEO will be launching each component as separate demonstration projects. NAFEO is engaged in discussions with the Department of Education to define both the short-term and long-term scope of these efforts.

school superintendents and mayors representing some of the largest school systems in the nation (such as Atlanta, Baltimore, Chicago, Cleveland, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and New York). The project will allow HBCUs to be more actively engaged in going into underserved urban communities to recruit students who otherwise might be left behind.

- *Information Technology Technical Assistance Initiative* -- \$4 million is requested to support the establishment of an HBCU IT Center. As a result of the funding provided by Congress last year, NAFEO will launch a comprehensive technology project that addresses the complex instrumentation, programmatic, and infrastructure issues confronting HBCUs and the students they serve. The establishment of the HBCU IT Services Center is a critical component of this effort. Congress has acknowledged the special set of information technology challenges confronting HBCUs and other Minority Serving Institutions, during its consideration of the *Digital and Wireless Network Technology Program Act*.⁴
- *Freshman Computer Enhancement Initiative* – In 2000, findings outlined in a U.S. Department of Commerce sponsored study conducted by NAFEO titled, “HBCUs: An Assessment of Networking and Connectivity,” indicate that at HBCUs, 12% of students and 71% of faculty members have personal computers (PC). Other research shows that 55% of the students at majority institutions of higher learning own a PC as compared to 15% of the African American students. NAFEO seeks to close these gaps⁵ by **funding an activity under Title III (B) that would provide an additional \$20 million in support of fully eligible Pell Grant freshman students having access to their own computers.** These funds would be over and above the request for the other components of Title III (B) discussed below.
- *Student Financial Assistance* -- In addition to supporting the funding of these special initiatives, NAFEO continues to support increased funding for all of the categorical and other HBCU-specific programs that have assisted predominantly and historically black institutions of higher education over the years. Specifically, NAFEO supports the recommendations of the Student AID Alliance and requests increased funding for Pell, SEOG, Work-Study, TRIO, and the other Title IV programs. Specific requests are detailed in the chart above. Without these programs, the vast majority of students HBCU serve would not be able to attend college.

⁴ Currently, there are two measures under consideration. H.R. 2801, introduced by Representative Randy Forbes and S. 196, introduced by Senator George Allen. Hearings on both of these bills were held last year in the House and Senate. S.196 has passed the Senate, and referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness.

⁵ Similar findings to those contained in the NAFEO study are reported in a February 2004 report, entitled “Serving the Nation: Opportunities and Challenges in the Use of Information Technology at Minority Serving Colleges and Universities,” published by the Alliance for Equity in Higher Education. The Alliance report found that HBCUs, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities “are in an unrivaled position to remedy the technological disenfranchisement of the nation’s emerging majority populations but are hampered due to lack of stable financial resources and other concerns. The report says that while some minority-serving institutions (MSIs) have achieved impressive results . . . far too many have urgent technology needs that cannot be addressed without significant support and guidance from the federal government, states and the private sector.”

- *Title III – Strengthening Institutions* -- Increased funding for Title III, Part B (undergraduate and graduate) continues to be a top priority. This program provides funding to support faculty and student development, facilities improvement, and endowment building. For Title III, Part B (undergraduate institutions), the President requests \$240.5 million, representing a \$17.7 million increase above last year's level. NAFEO seeks \$260 million for this program. For Title III, Section 326 (graduate and professional institutions), the President requests \$58.5 million, representing a proposed \$5.5 million increase above last year's level. NAFEO seeks \$65 million for this program in FY05. This particular program contributes significantly to allowing HBCUs to continue to address the undersupply of African American PhDs in the science and engineering fields, and professional degrees in law, pharmacy, and medicine.
- *Health Disparities* -- Finally, on the appropriations front, it would be an egregious oversight not to thank the subcommittee for its support of the National Institutes of Health, Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities. I particularly want to acknowledge the efforts of Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr., Senator Edward Kennedy, and others. The President requests \$197.0 million for the center. NAFEO supports a funding level of \$210.7 million, and asks that \$30 million be provided to support the creation of new PHD programs at HBCUs in medical and health related fields. Funding also will support the establishment of medical schools, schools of public health and other institutional academic offerings in the fields of medicine and health. Because of the infrastructure, training and resource requirements needed to be successful within the NIH framework, HBCUs oftentimes are unable to compete successfully for many of the resources that are being provided to support certain Center efforts. The requested targeted assistance to HBCUs will allow these institutions to provide advanced education, training and research opportunities to a much greater number of professionals, who ultimately will possess the skills and cultural sensitivities needed to end racial health disparities – allowing the nation to meet the underlying objectives that supported the Center's establishment.

HIGHER EDUCATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION RECOMMENDATIONS

While NAFEO recognizes that issues related to the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA) fall under the jurisdiction of another committee, the organization would like to at least inform this subcommittee of four initiatives we deem critical to moving the national education agenda forward. We take a moment to share these recommendations with you now, because, ultimately our proposals will be shared with you for funding consideration. We ask that you consider any authorization levels that may be approved this year, and fund these critical programs at the highest levels possible.

Predominantly Black Institutions – NAFEO seeks a first year authorization and appropriations of at least \$30 million. Under Title III, Part A, Section 311 both majority and predominantly Black institutions are eligible to apply for competitive grants. Predominantly Black institutions are two-year and four-year institutions that have high percentages of low-income, African American students enrolled, but which are not considered to be “historically” Black under federal guidelines. Many of these schools are located in inner-city communities and were once majority institutions and became “predominantly” Black institutions with demographic shifts. In recent years, demand from funding under this program has been extremely intense. In 2002, the Department received 197 applications and only 19 were funded because of the limited availability of funds for new grants. In 2003, the Department received 310 applications, and only 74 applications were funded because of the limited availability of funds for new grants.

While historically distinguishable from “historically” Black institutions of higher education, many of the issues that predominantly Black colleges and universities face are nonetheless comparable in terms of the challenges both classifications of institutions face. Both categories of institutions educate students who come from a community historically disadvantaged because of racially discriminatory policies, and whose families have experienced generations of poverty. These schools oftentimes have received insufficient state funding and are in drastic need of facilities upgrades and repair. Therefore, NAFEO supports during the HEA reauthorization process efforts to create a distinct program, under Title III, specifically for predominantly Black colleges and universities. As it stands, all other major ethnic classifications have a specific designation for institutional funding within the HEA – **except for** predominantly Black institutions of higher education.

Title III, PART B (Proposed Section 327 – Emerging Doctoral Programs) – Under a new Section 327, a separate new competitive grant graduate capacity-building program would be established. A minimum authorization and appropriations level of \$25 million is requested. The program would allow HBCUs that operate successful masters level programs to apply for funding to support developing such programs into doctoral degree granting programs. Under the new section, eligible program areas would be expanded to include any disciplines in which African Americans are underrepresented, particularly those areas identified as areas of national need. This would include institutions currently participating in Section 326, as well as non-participating institutions.

Title III, Part B (Proposed Section 328 – Graduate Fellowships) – A minimum authorization and appropriations level of \$20 million is requested for this program. By expanding fellowship opportunities, this program would allow HBCUs to increase the recruitment and retention of African Americans in graduate, professional, and PhD programs. The ability of an institution to offer a fellowship is the single most critical component to efforts to recruit and retain students in upper level graduate and PhD programs. This program will serve as a companion to the newly proposed Section 327 program. In that, once created, newly established graduate programs at HBCUs must have resources to offer fellowships to compete with other institutions for qualified African American students. Additionally, even though Title III, Section 326-C (4), permits use of funds for fellowships, limited funding and keen competition for other activities authorized under this section justify the establishment of a category of funding specifically for graduate fellowships.

Collaborative Centers of Excellence for Minority Teacher Education -- NAFEO first introduced this proposal to this very subcommittee several years ago, when we initially sought funding to support a demonstration program. A project at Cheney University ultimately was funded. In order to secure a multi-year, fully authorized effort that will be more comprehensive in its scope, we now seek an authorization through the HEA. For the first year, a funding level of \$15 million is requested. This proposal will help to address the current and future teacher shortage in the nation, particularly in the areas of mathematics and science – areas experiencing a tremendous shortage of African American teachers. Up to 10 Centers of Excellence at HBCUs are proposed. This proposal has broad-based support across the higher education community.

This concludes my testimony and I would be happy to answer any questions.